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WHAT is Islam and who are Muslims?

Islam is a natural and complete way of life that encourages one to give due attention to their relationship with Allah and His creation. It teaches that souls will only find true happiness and peace through performing good actions that are approved by Allah, which benefit both society and the individual.

The message of Islam is very clear: to believe in and worship The One True God alone, and to believe in Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as His final Messenger. The word “Islam” means submission to Allah alone. And its followers are known as Muslims, who can be from any racial or ethnic background or country with no discrimination.

WHAT is the Purpose of Life?

Allah did not create us to simply wander aimlessly. Rather, we were created for a higher purpose - to worship Allah alone, so that we live upon the guidance of our Creator. This guidance directs us to live a successful and blessed life in all aspects in this world and the hereafter. The test of one's faith is in using one's intellect and reasoning abilities to contemplate, recognise Allah's signs, the proof of Allah's existence, and to live according to His guidance.

In Allah's ultimate wisdom, He gave mankind free will as a test to see who will willingly follow His path.

WHO is Allah? WHO is Muhammad?

1- Allah is the personal name of The One True God Who has no partners, equals, parents or children. All of Allah's attributes are perfect, for He is The Creator, The Most Merciful, The All-Powerful, The Most Just, The All-Wise and The All-Knowing. No human or object shares in Allah's lordship and His divine attributes, as such, He alone deserves to be worshipped directly and exclusively.

2- Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the final Prophet in the long –line of Prophets, sent to call all mankind to the worship of Allah alone. He is the ideal role model for fathers, husbands, teachers, leaders and judges, and he reached the highest level of honesty, justice, compassion and bravery. Although greatly respected, he, like the other Prophets, is not worshipped by Muslims.



Why Believe in Allah?

There are many reasons for believing in Allah including those based only on logic (summarised below) and through revelation (discussed in the next section).

–Beginning of the Universe – A fairly straightforward reason for believing in Allah relates to reflecting on the origin of the universe. Where did the universe initially come from? The universe hasn't always existed (it has a beginning according to modern science) and it couldn't have come from nothing or created itself. Thus, the reasonable conclusion is that it was created. Unlike the universe, The Creator of the universe, Allah, is eternal, has no beginning and has always existed.

Why Believe in Allah?

Order of the Universe - Another simple reason for believing in Allah is by pondering over the order of the universe using the following logic:

- 1- Anything that is ordered indicates knowledge and wisdom.**
- 2- Our solar system is highly ordered with intricate laws, systems and patterns**
- 3- Therefore, the order in our universe indicates the existence and wisdom of the Creator**



WHAT is the Quran?

The Quran is the literal word of Allah and the final book (revelation to mankind).

The Quran provides a strong argument for the existence of Allah for those who have sound minds and are sincere. It is unmatched in its style, wisdom, guidance, beauty and eloquence. It is the literal word of Allah, as revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) through the Angel Gabriel, and supersedes and abrogates all previous revelations, such as the Gospel and the Torah. It is a primary source of Islamic knowledge.

WHAT is the Quran?

It tackles all the main issues concerning mankind, such as the purpose of our existence, the correct belief, worshipping Allah alone, the stories of the Prophets and their lessons, and the accounts of Heaven, Hell, and the Day of Judgement.

One of the great miracles of the Quran is that it has been preserved and unchanged since it was revealed over 1400 years ago. It also contains many scientific and historical facts that were unknown to the people of that time and have only been discovered recently, which is one of the proofs that it is the word of Allah the Exalted.



WHAT are the Pillars of Islam?

1st Pillar: The Testimony of Faith. To declare that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and Muhammad is His final Messenger.

2nd Pillar: Prayers. To be performed five times daily: once each at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, after sunset and at night.

3rd Pillar: Prescribed Charity. this is an annual compulsory charity paid to those less fortunate. It's a purification of oneself, Allah the Exalted Said "Take Sadaqah (alms) from their wealth in order to purify them and sanctify them with it" (Al-Tawba: 103). Also, it's a means of spreading unity, love and solidarity between the members of a Muslim society.

WHAT are the Pillars of Islam?

4th Pillar: Fasting the Month of Ramadan. Throughout this month, Muslims must refrain from all food, drink and sexual relations with their spouses, from dawn to sunset. It promotes self-restraint, consciousness of Allah and empathy to the poor.

5th Pillar: The Pilgrimage. Every able Muslim is required to make the pilgrimage to Mecca once in his lifetime. It involves prayer, supplication, charity and other acts of worship. It is a very humbling and spiritual experience.



WHAT do Muslims Believe about Jesus and Other Prophets?

Prophets were sent by Allah, at least one to every nation, with the same message: to worship Allah alone and not associate any partner with Him. Some of these Prophets include Adam, Noah, Joseph, Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (peace be upon them all).

Jesus was born miraculously without a father and performed many miracles all by the Will of Allah.

Jesus (peace be upon him) was one of the greatest Prophets sent by Almighty Allah.

Jesus is not Allah, the son of Allah or part of a trinity as this clearly contradicts the pure teachings of Allah in Islam.

Consider the following:

WHAT do Muslims Believe about Jesus and Other Prophets?

- There are many examples in Christian teachings of Jesus speaking and behaving as a separate being from Allah, e.g., Jesus prays to Allah - If Jesus was Allah, who would he be praying to?
- The term “Son of Allah” is symbolically used in the earliest biblical languages for a “righteous person” for many people - not exclusively for Jesus. The problem arises when using the term literally or out of its context.

Although Muslims love and respect Jesus (and all other Prophets), they do not worship him nor attribute to him divine attributes, as this is reserved solely for Allah.



ARE all Religions the Same?

While most religions generally have the same teachings regarding good manners, kindness to others and so on, Islam, and all the previous unchanged messages of the Prophets, additionally focus on the Greatness of Allah with no compromises with his Oneness and Perfection. Unlike other religions, Islam primarily teaches that Allah is completely different and unique compared to His creation and that all praise and worship is due directly and exclusively to Him. Islam is also comprehensive, simple yet profound, has revelation that is preserved in books and the hearts of people, and does not reject any of Allah's Prophets but states that they all came with the one and same message : Tawheed (monotheism / the oneness of Allah).

WHAT Happens After Death?

Death is the passage from this brief life into the next eternal life. Each person will be resurrected to be held to account on the Day of Judgement. So, the person who worships Allah alone and does goodness in this life, will be entered into Paradise, through Allah's Mercy and Grace. However, the one who chooses to disbelieve, Hellfire awaits him.

If there was no afterlife in which the good were rewarded and the bad were punished, it would contradict the perfect justice of Allah, and life would not be fair.

HOW does Islam View Women?

In Islam, men and women are viewed as equals before Allah, in terms of both receiving equal reward and accountability for their actions. Allah, the Creator of both genders, has assigned different roles and responsibilities for each, taking into account their differences. Women are given the utmost respect and honour, with no form of oppression condoned towards them.



DOES the Concept of Original Sin Exist in Islam?

The concept of “original sin” does not exist in Islam. Allah is just. So, no person is held accountable for any sin they themselves were not responsible for.

WHAT is Jihad?

The essence of Jihad is to struggle and sacrifice for one’s religion in a manner which is pleasing to Allah. Linguistically, it means to “struggle” which includes striving to do good deeds, giving charity, or fighting for the sake of Allah. The most commonly known form is the military Jihad which is permitted in order to preserve the well-being of society, to prevent oppression from spreading, and to promote justice.



DOES Islam Condone Terrorism?

In war, the targeting of innocent non-combatants is a despicable act which Islam clearly prohibits. In fact, Muslims are not even allowed to destroy plants and animals unnecessarily, let alone innocent humans. This is but one example of the many ethical guidelines of war stipulated in Islam.

WHAT is Halal Food?

Fundamentally, all foods and beverages are considered halal, except what was excluded which harms a person's health, manners, and religion. Allah has granted us with all that He has created upon the earth to benefit from except for that which He has forbidden. Meats and poultry must be slaughtered humanely and correctly, which includes mentioning Allah's name before slaughter and minimizing the suffering of animals.

WHO Can Become a Muslim?

Allah has opened the doors of Islam to all of mankind, regardless of their past or current situation. Therefore, anyone can become a Muslim at any time by simply believing in, uttering, and acting upon the following testimony of faith: “I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is Allah’s Messenger.”

Becoming a Muslim means acknowledging the greatness and oneness of The Creator, developing, and maintaining a close relationship with Him by obeying Him. This will lead to happiness, contentment in this life and the next, and the realisation of one’s purpose of life.

Accessories

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